

An FBI Special Agent or Task Force Officer may request a polygraph examination [redacted]  
[redacted] A law enforcement officer of any other law enforcement agency may request a polygraph examination for a witness or subject of a criminal case.

The instructions are as follows:

- A written request on the law enforcement agency's letter head, from a supervisor (not case agent/investigator) [redacted]  
[redacted] The written request should include a brief synopsis of the case and the need for a polygraph examination. In addition, any identifying information regarding the witness or subject such as their name, sex, date of birth, and home address.

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1. **CLEARING SUSPECTS:** If you have several suspects in a crime (say robbery), and all of the suspects had access to the stolen money, you could use a polygraph to reduce the suspect pool.
2. **CONFIRM WITNESS STATEMENTS:** This is especially important when corroboration of the statement(s) would otherwise necessitate the use of additional extensive hours of time on the part of FBI personnel, or when the matter will be highly publicized. Use of the polygraph to confirm witness statements as well as to detect those instances when witnesses are merely fabricating information.
3. **CONFIRM INFORMANT STATEMENTS:** Though it has been thoroughly determined that informants never lie or exaggerate the truth, one might want to determine the veracity of the source before expending too much effort.
4. **CONFIRM VICTIM STATEMENTS:** As a general rule, this type of test is NOT done just to give a modicum of credibility to the victim. However, this test can be done if the victim's statements don't mesh well with the facts developed, which would make the "victim" a subject.
5. **EXPLORATORY EXAM:** If the suspect has been arrested for committing a string of burglaries, for example, you can use a polygraph to help clear up other crimes he/she may have committed as well.
6. **LOCATING EVIDENCE:** If a suspect has confessed to a robbery, but will not tell you the location of the money, a polygraph exam can be used in an attempt to pinpoint the location of the money. Polygraph has also been used to find the bodies of murder victims. These types of exam require careful prior planning.
7. **SATISFYING PLEA AGREEMENTS:** Prior to sentencing, many subjects include a promise to cooperate with the prosecution in exchange for sentencing leniency. The subject agrees to tell where all the criminal assets, etc., are located, or to identify all parties to the crime, or to determine the full extent of his/her involvement in the crime. A polygraph exam will be able to identify if the subject has lived up to his part of the bargain. Be sure to keep this in mind when conferring with the AUSA assigned your case.